



Seattle Office of Emergency Management

What are we doing to prepare the City for a major earthquake?

City Preparedness –

As a City, we have known about the earthquake hazard for a long time. Extensive planning has been done in several areas. Here are a few highlights:

Fire Levy, 2003 – in the aftermath of the Nisqually quake of 2001, Seattle residents passed a \$167 million Fire Levy that provided funding to strengthen the City's ability to respond after a major disaster. All 32 neighborhood fire stations were renovated or replaced. Funds were also used to build a new joint training facility for Seattle Fire and Seattle Public Utilities, construct a new fire alarm center and City emergency operations center, harden fire hydrants so firefighters can draw water directly out of eight City reservoirs, place emergency generators at community centers, and place emergency supply caches in four areas of the City. For full details: <http://www.seattle.gov/fire-facilities-and-emergency-response-levy>

Earthquake Preparedness: Activities Completed and Future Efforts – in 2010, the City published a summary of all activities completed to date in the 10 years following the Nisqually earthquake. The report outlines how each City department strengthened critical infrastructure, built community preparedness, increased employee preparedness, and identifies future efforts. For the complete report:

<http://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/emergency/preparedness/hazardspecific/earthquake/cityofseattleearthquakepreparednessactivitiescompletedandfutureeffortsjune2010v2.pdf>

Seattle Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – this plan serves as the City's response doctrine during a major disaster. It outlines how the City will function, make policy decisions and provide clear, concise information in the aftermath of a major disaster.

Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (SHIVA) – the SHIVA is the foundation for all of the City's disaster planning and preparedness activities. It identifies the biggest threats to our region and is updated every four years to reflect new and emerging trends. For the complete document: <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/what-if/hazards>

Mitigation Plan – this plan outlines what Seattle has been doing to strengthen City-owned and operated facilities before a disaster strikes to make them better able to withstand both natural and man-made hazards. Some of the projects include: seismic retrofit of the Post Alley and King Street Station and seismic retrofit of the North Queen Anne Drive Bridge. It also identifies actions the City can take to encourage private property owners to strengthen their buildings.

Recovery Framework – after a major disaster, this document sets up a basic structure for how the City will work together to re-build itself in key areas like buildings and land use, housing, economics, natural and cultural resources, infrastructure and community coordination and capacity building.

Because the effects of a severe earthquake will be regional, Seattle was a major partner in the creation of an eight-county **Puget Sound Regional Catastrophic Plan** that outlines how the region will coordinate and manage resources in several key areas such as transportation, health and medical services, firefighting, communications and mass fatality management. These plans can be found at: <http://mil.wa.gov/other-links/plans>

Cascadia Rising Exercise, June, 2016 – Seattle will test its plans on how priorities are identified and resource requests will be coordinated with regional partners at the County, State and Federal levels. For more details:

<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/cascadiarising2016/view?objectId=3233584>

For additional details, go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/what-if/plans>

Community Preparedness –

In addition to City-wide planning, community education and preparedness has been a main priority of the Seattle Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

- Each year, at least 8,000 people participate in personal preparedness training, emergency skills classes, and neighborhood organization. The goal is for everyone to be as self-sufficient as they can and take care of themselves and their family for the first 7 to 10 days following a major disaster. Emergency preparedness materials are available in 19 different languages, and bi-lingual instructors teach in their native language.
- The City's seismic home retrofit program has been a mainstay of its training program, and offers free classes throughout the year. The class teaches homeowners how to do the work themselves and become educated consumers on reducing potential damage to their home due to earthquake. For more: <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/what-can-i-do/prepare-your-home>

- OEM Volunteers teach neighbors how to organize together with [SNAP \(Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare\)](#). Neighbors exchange contact information, designate a meeting place and prioritize response tasks like checking on one another, controlling utilities and providing first aid when city resources will be overwhelmed or unavailable.
- Community members have also organized at a grass-roots level and formed Emergency Hubs in several parts of the city. An Emergency Hub is a gathering place where neighbors come together to share information, resources and problem-solve among each other.
- Neighbors can put themselves on a map and contact each other directly at: <http://seattleemergencyhubs.org/seattle-emergency-neighborlink-map/>
- For more on how Seattle works together with others, go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/working-together>